

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the finality of the previous Office Action. Claims 1-6 and 9-14 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is amended to include the recitation that a machine tool side of the drive flange (10) is provided with arc-shaped grooves (66) for self-cleaning purposes. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, on page 10, lines 28-31 of the specification. Page 10, lines 28-31 of the specification is amended to include the identifier "66" for arc-shaped grooves. This identifier was inadvertently omitted from the original German language specification. No new matter is added.

Claims Rejections 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-6 and 9-14 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffmann (DE 10222292 A1) in view of Wiley (US 4,657,428). The Examiner's rejection has been carefully considered. Applicant has amended claims and believes that the claims, as amended, overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for the reasons that follow and respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a contact surface (30) that is provided with arc-shaped grooves (66) in addition to bore holes (72) and recesses (60). The arc-shaped grooves (66) provide the advantage of conveying unwanted particles present on the contact surface (30) outward so that they may be ejected from the drive device (12). The removal of particles from the contact surface (30) achieves a high adhesive force between a surface of the insert tool (14) and the contact surface (30). Consequently, the basically particle free contact surface (30) advantageously aids the locking element (20) in fixing the insert tool (14) in place. An additional advantage resulting from the arc-shaped grooves (66) is that the disk-shaped hub (42) cannot cant during a dismounting of the dismounting of the disk-shaped hub (42) because the unwanted

particles that can cause the cant of the disk-shaped hub (42) are ejected from the drive device (12) by the arc-shaped grooves (66).

Hoffman et. al. do not teach or suggest arc-shaped grooves on the contact surface for self-cleaning purposes. Consequently, a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made would have found no guidance in Hoffmann that would lead to the presently claimed invention. Accordingly, claim 1, as amended, is patentable over Hoffmann.

Wiley discloses a tool-holding device (8) for an insert tool (22) having a drive shaft (9) and form-locking elements (13, 14, 16, 20), wherein the form-locking elements (13, 14, 16, 20) fix the insert tool (14) in a form-locking manner in an axial and radial direction of the drive shaft (9). The tool-holding device (8) for the insert tool (14) includes a drive flange (19) to which the form locking elements (20) are attached. The drive flange (19) has a first no contact surface on which a surface of the insert tool (22) abuts. Furthermore, Wiley does not teach or suggest arc-shaped grooves for self-cleaning purposes. Consequently, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made would find no motivation to modify Hoffmann to arrive at the presently claimed invention. Accordingly, claim 1, as amended, is patentable over Hoffmann in view of Wiley.

Conclusion

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Striker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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